

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **Troopers Seize Cocaine, Marijuana Following Traffic Stops** ***Three Subjects Charged with Trafficking***

Following traffic stops Monday on interstates near Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama state troopers assigned to the Highway Patrol Division seized five kilos of cocaine, 13 pounds of marijuana and made three arrests on drug trafficking charges,

At 3:10 p.m. Monday, a Mobile-area trooper stopped a Ford pickup truck for a traffic violation – following too closely – near the eight mile-marker on Interstate 10 eastbound. After obtaining the driver's consent to search the vehicle, the trooper located five kilos of cocaine concealed in the truck's cab. The cocaine has a street value of \$125,000.

The driver, Alfonso Noriega, 18, and a passenger, Ricardo Daltierra, 26, both of Kenner, La., were taken into custody without incident. Both were charged with trafficking in cocaine and placed in the Mobile County Jail.

Later Monday, at 5:45 p.m., a Montgomery-area trooper stopped the driver of a Chrysler PT Cruiser for suspected drunken driving on Interstate 85 northbound near the 11 mile-marker. The trooper detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle, and a subsequent search revealed approximately 13 pounds of marijuana secreted in the vehicle's passenger compartment. The marijuana has a street value of \$13,000.

The driver, Anthony Hannula, 22, of Saute Nacochie, Ga., was charged with trafficking in marijuana and placed in the Montgomery County Jail.

Both cases have been turned over to the Alabama Bureau of Investigation for further investigation.

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